

Amendments to the Claims:

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element for use in the oral cavity, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it has a cross-sectional area having a non-circular periphery.
2. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it has a cross-sectional area having a periphery in the shape of a first part-circle, having a first radius of curvature, the end-points of which are joined by at least one curved line.
3. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the curved line joining the end-points of the first part-circle is in the shape of a second part-circle, the radius of curvature of the first part-circle being smaller than the radius of curvature of the second part-circle.
4. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it has a cross-sectional area having a periphery in the shape of a first part-circle the end-points of which are joined by at least one at least approximately straight line.
5. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the line joining the end-points of the first part-circle passes into the first part-circle in an at least approximately not continuously differentiable manner.
6. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it has a cross-sectional area having a periphery in the shape of a closed polygonal figure.

7. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the periphery of the cross-sectional area has a honeycomb structure.
8. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the periphery of the cross-sectional area has a rectangular shape.
9. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the periphery of the cross-sectional area has a triangular shape.
10. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it has a three-dimensional shape that becomes narrower in the longitudinal direction.
11. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it is produced from wadding.
12. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it is in the shape of a longitudinal profile part.
13. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the cross-sectional area is the cross-sectional area cut perpendicular to the longitudinal direction.
14. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it has no cross-sectional area having a circular periphery.
15. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it has a straight or curved three-

dimensional shape.

16. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 10, ~~characterised in that wherein~~, in a first sectional plane, it is substantially V-shaped.
17. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 16, ~~characterised in that wherein~~, in a second sectional plane perpendicular to the first sectional plane, it is substantially wedge-shaped.
18. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 16~~—or—~~17, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it is formed from one material component, preferably a foamed material, or from a plurality of material components, preferably synthetic fibre or natural fibre, optionally combined with highly absorbent material.
19. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 18, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ it is formed from a multi-layer composite material.
20. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 19, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the composite material is composed of a core layer and covering layers surrounding the core layer.
21. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to claim 19~~—or—~~20, ~~characterised in that wherein~~ the core material is selected from at least one material from the group consisting of silicone, natural fibres, synthetic fibres and plastics, especially polyethylene, polyamide or polypropylene, and, optionally, customary additives, it being possible for the core material to be absorbent or highly absorbent, whereas the covering layers independently of one another are selected from at least one material from the group consisting of optionally absorbent natural fibres and optionally absorbent synthetic fibres and, optionally, customary additives, the covering layers being permeable to moisture and not impeding the transport of

moisture from the outside to the interior of the insertion element.

22. (Currently Amended) Dental insertion element according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, characterised in that wherein it has at least one surface which is matched to anatomical features in the oral cavity, especially to the contour of one or more teeth, to the contour of the tongue, or to the contour of the inner wall of the oral cavity such as the upper or lower palate region.
23. (Currently Amended) Endless strand comprising a multiplicity of dental insertion elements according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.